



Dunedin Methodist Parish

Finding Good in everyone Finding God in everyone

www.dunedinmethodist.org.nz

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| | Rev. Dr. Rod Mitchell | 477 3700 |
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| Tongan Steward: | Mr Kaufusi Pole | 455 0096 |
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| Mornington: | | |

PARISH BULLETIN

29th March 2015

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY 5th April

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| 9.30 am | Mornington | S Pole |
| 9.30 am | Mosgiel | D Phillipps |
| 11.00 am | Glenaven | S Pole |
| 11.00 am | Wesley | D Phillipps |
| 1.00 pm | St Kilda | Combined at Wesley |

EASTER SUNDAY DAWN SERVICE, 5 April, 7am at Broad Bay Beach. After the service, enjoy a fish breakfast at Olive Bain's home, 8A Waikana Street, Broad Bay (5 minutes walk from the beach). Cost \$5. For catering purposes, please let Jenny Winter know if you are coming, by 30 March, by phone or email (total numbers from each congregation is fine), phone 478 0491, mob 021 168 9272, email mcleanwinter@clear.net.nz.

MUSICAL SOCIETY CONCERT today 2.30pm at the Mornington Methodist Church. A programme of duets and songs. All welcome. Adults \$2.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

World Day of Prayer was held at the Mosgiel Presbyterian Church from the Bahamas. The theme was,

“Do you know what I have done to you?”

All denominations took part with Rev Helen Martin taking the reflection. About fifty six ladies enjoyed this service with afternoon tea and fellowship to follow.

CORRECTION - I said in last week's Connections that in the late 1980s the (Anglican) creed changed. But it was from "I believe" to "We believe", not the other way around. A crucial distinction! HWW.

The Walk of the Cross

Experience carrying a real cross through the streets of Mosgiel, stopping for prayer, readings and singing.

Begins at **8.45am** at St Mary's Catholic Church, Church St

finishes at the

Combined Good Friday Service

10am

St Luke's Anglican Church,
Gordon Road, Mosgiel



Organised by The Combined Churches of Mosgiel

NOTE THESE COMBINED MORNINGTON ECUMENICAL ACTIVITIES COMING UP:

In 2015, **3rd April** our Good Friday Procession will **start** at St. Francis Xavier Church at 9.30 am, heading then to the Presbyterians, then to the Anglicans and will finish at the Methodists with worship and morning tea.

Also the first of our combined evening services on the 5th Sunday of the month, **29th March**, Palm Sunday, at Mornington Presbyterian, 16 Maryhill Terrace, at 6.30. We would appreciate it if those attending could please bring a palm (or similar) branch to wave with them. Thank you.

LIFELINE ASIST SUICIDE PREVENTION – 2 day Training. May 19 – 20 2015, Community House, 301 Moray Place, Dunedin.

Register at http://www.livingworks.org.nz/Register_380.aspx



Y@M on BIRDS - Y@M “flew” into Rod Mitchell’s fascinating bird theme last Sunday with three posters drawing no-nonsense lessons from our feathered friends.

First Poster - *“Migrate towards the warmth of God’s love”*. But keep flying. Migration can be difficult and dangerous – but it’s an important journey and in the end it’s crucial for our survival.

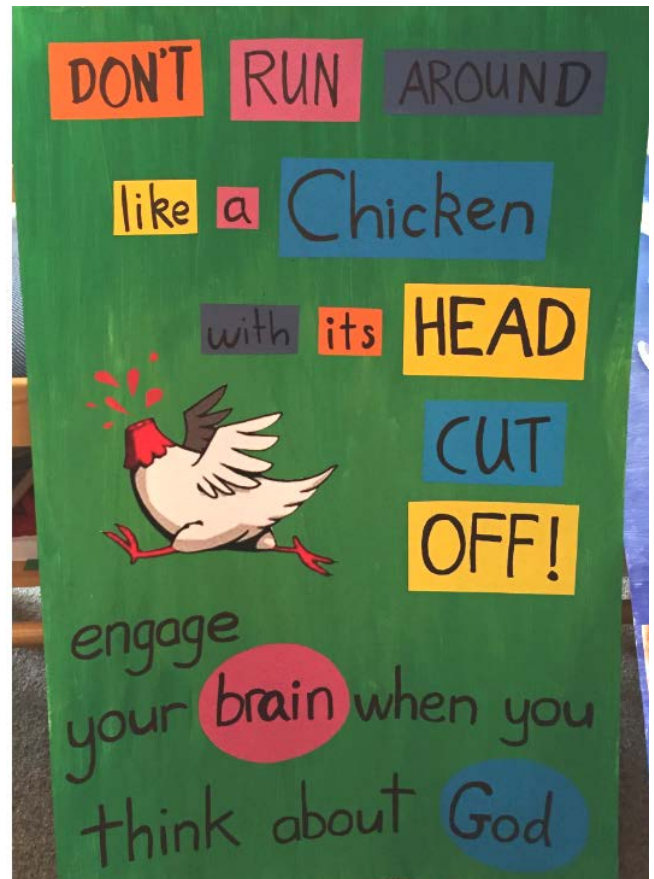
Second Poster - *“Don’t just float on the breeze – get some direction in your life”*. When we fly against the wind we need all our strength to keep pointing in the right direction.



Third Poster - *“Don’t run around like a chicken with its head cut off – engage your brain when you think about God.”* If you use your brain in the rest of your life, you shouldn’t suddenly stop using it when you’re at church

Thanks Y@M. Suggestion: shoot your posters round to KFC. Their “secret recipe” is getting a bit tired, and yours could be an improvement. Live chickens make better role models than dead ones.

Photos: Rod Mitchell with a hilarious cartoon. Lachlan Jones, David Cannon and Blaire Hanna make a presentation. Third Poster, complete with headless chicken.



NORTH EAST VALLEY WALK OF THE CROSS - The local churches of North East Valley will join together in the Walk of the Cross on Good Friday. The walk will start at 11.00am from North East Valley Baptist Church to the Botanic Garden where there will be a combined service with all the churches. Everyone is welcome to this service.

EXPLORERS GROUP: Meeting today, Sunday 29 March, 4.30 pm at Mornington.

MOSGIEL METHODIST WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP Tuesday 7th April @ 1:30pm in the hall. Our guest speaker will be Christine Bates, a St John volunteer who makes distraction packs for children who go into the emergency department at Dunedin Public Hospital. All those interested are welcome.

STORY FROM THE MISSION

Arahina: Foodshare donations were postponed over January and resumed again in line with the school term. Some wonderful items have arrived, the most popular with the older Arahina children being chilli peppers. The boys especially wanted to try them out and set themselves up with variations of pepper colours to test their ferociousness and various glasses of milk, water, and orange juice to see which liquids helped the most with the heat. We were on hand to remind the boys to take it easy at first and then build up to more if they wanted to and not to feel pressure that everyone else was doing it, and of course remind them to wash their hands afterwards.



'LOOK AT THE BIRDS OF THE AIR'

I am enjoying Rod's reflections on birds and their significance for us who live in this highly electronic and technological age where the natural world seems to become increasingly more distant with each passing year. It's very easy to forget how important the natural world is because we are so insulated from the source of the essential elements of life. It was good to be reminded that the 'least of these' happen to be vital to our existence. The development of the Orokanui Eco Sanctuary dedicated to nurturing birdlife is indeed a jewel in Dunedin's crown and a reminder to us all that we have a responsibility in preserving our natural heritage.

Bird life of many species flourishes in our garden which brings us enormous pleasure, but also concern, especially when they crash into our windows, stunning themselves, sometimes fatally. The cheeky, spirited little Fantails (who I believe to be the 'blondes' of the bird kingdom) persist in prancing around in front of our cat's nose, daring her to take a swipe. Perhaps they have worked out that she's way too lazy and well fed to be tempted by their antics. She simply opens one eye and with a 'what-ever!!!' expression on her smug feline face,

continues her slumbers. Bellbirds, Tui, Song Thrush and Blackbirds delight us with their song and gorgeous plumage. However, I do have a bit of an issue with the native pigeon from time to time. They love to gorge on elderberries and cherry plums, then, in order to gain altitude to clear the clothesline, they jettison a load of semi-digested missiles on my pristine washing! I must confess in these moments, to feeling less than 'christian' toward these feathered aviators. I'm sure they don't worry, or lose a moments sleep over the ruination of my washing!

The scripture reading for Bird Sunday was Matt. 6: 25-26. and I have been reflecting on what Jesus is reputed to have said about managing the human trait of worrying. It seems we are not to give any thought to our daily needs, for all will be taken care of. He goes on to talk about the birds and the comparative value of us humans. We are way more valuable than the birds who don't plant crops and tend gardens, yet are always fed and clothed in their gorgeous feathered outfits. Worrying is a fruitless exercise (vs. 27) I don't know about you , but as soon as someone says 'don't worry about it', that's my cue to start worrying! Worrying is a generic human activity. Maybe even birds worry when food supplies are dwindling and they are confronted with a cold bleak winter, we don't know.

Last week Rod spoke about the mysteries and wonder of bird migration...that must surely be a worrying prospect for any self respecting migratory bird...exciting but worrying!!! So much could go wrong. The question of the comparative value of birds and humans is also interesting. Given we humans are highly dependent on birds for all sorts of vital biological processes, I suspect we are a lot more inter-dependent than we fully comprehend and appreciate.

Of course it's great advice, not to worry, but how can we not worry when the bill pile is starting to reach alarming heights, or our teenagers are experimenting with life in very scary ways, and health issues become more of a problem. We would be super human if we didn't experience sleepless nights followed by anxious days. Some of us are just 'born worriers'...we worry if there is nothing to worry about.

What is Jesus talking about...how can we not worry about stuff?

Maybe a clue is to read the Matthew text interpreting it in a contemporary context for example, we could substitute the word 'worry' with 'obsess'. Obsessing about issues is the most extreme form of worrying, and being 'a little concerned', the least extreme form, with varying degrees inbetween. Some things we need to be concerned about. This kind of concern is valid, prompting us into making necessary changes. I guess its when we start obsessing that worry becomes unhealthy. It paralyses us and we get stuck. It is said that only 98% of what we worry about actually happens. It's that wretched 2% that trips us up.

Migratory birds would be in trouble if they were paralysed by worry/obsession . They seem to follow the call of the wild in spite of their possible misgivings.

I wonder why Jesus chose birds (grasses and flowers) as examples of God's caring nature? That life for them is so fleeting and precarious does not mean it is without value and influence. This may have had something to do with the choice, or maybe it was purely happenstance.

What ever the reason, birds (and flowers) teach us much about life, its transience, its beauty and its value. All life is sacred no matter how brief its time.

The trick is learning what to be concerned about, not in an obsessive way, but holding the concern prayerfully, then doing what we can, to alleviate the situation. This sounds easy, but at times it is extremely difficult to do.

The birds of the air apparently have mastered the skill. I have to say, all my worrying has certainly NOT added a 'centimeter' to my stature!!!! (vs.27) So, like the birds, maybe we need to 'seek first the vision of God and all manner of things will be well, because sufficient unto the day is its own trouble'.

Trish Patrick